

# Evaluation Services - Past Performance Projects

NPIC/QAS has served as the evaluator for federal, state and foundation funded projects. We have worked with community partners to provide state of the art behavioral health prevention, early intervention (SBIRT – screening, brief intervention, referral to treatment) and treatment services. Other efforts have contributed to advancing the behavioral health field by informing the community concerning best practices.

## *Coordinated Care Programs*

### ***Case Management Program for Women at High Risk for HIV "SSTARLINK"***

NPIC/QAS was the program evaluation subcontractor to *Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR)* for this *Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)* demonstration project. The Case Management Program for Women at High Risk for HIV (SSTARLINK) centralized case management services to women in need of primary health care, inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment, HIV seropositive services and mental health services. The goals of this program included improving substance abuse treatment retention and outcomes and improved health status of the target population.

### ***MAP Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitative Services***

These services based at MAP in RI expanded the full range of substance abuse treatment and HIV prevention and case management services to those of minority status. The *Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)* contract ended in September, 2008; but behavioral health treatment and HIV prevention, counseling and testing services continue to be provided through other funding (including Center for Disease Control funding).

NPIC/QAS previously worked with MAP (10/00 - 9/03) on a Treatment Capacity Expansion-HIV grant to expand treatment capacity and integrate HIV prevention/outreach efforts with behavioral health treatment.

### ***Stanley Street Treatment and Resources "onTrac" Program***

*Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR)* in Fall River, MA until September 2008, held a Treatment Capacity Expansion/HIV grant through *Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)* to enhance and expand outreach, pretreatment and treatment services to a community that has been highly affected by the epidemic of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS, especially among women. Care coordination services were not sustained following grant closure. However, SSTAR continues to provide the full range of behavioral health treatment, as well as outpatient medical care at the agency's Fall River campus.

### ***Stanley Street Treatment and Resources Treatment Access Project***

This project funded services at *Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR)* in Fall River, MA designed to coordinate primary care, behavioral health, and substance abuse treatment services. The first year of this three-year project focused on coordinating care within the SSTAR service delivery system. In subsequent years, efforts were made to work with local primary care providers to improve the identification and referral of individuals who are in need of substance abuse treatment.

### ***Vulnerable Infants Program of Rhode Island Family Treatment Drug Court***

This program provided assessment and care coordination services. Staff from [The Brown Center For The Study Of Children At Risk/Women and Infants Hospital](#) worked with behavioral health service providers, child welfare staff and family court to insure appropriate service plans are developed to address the needs of newborns who have been prenatally exposed to substances and their family members. NPIC/QAS assisted with the development of a Family Treatment Drug Court to better serve these families.

An article detailing the first five years of the project entitled "Vulnerable Infants Program - RI: Promoting Permanency for Substance - Exposed Infants" was published in [Child Welfare Vol. 89, No.3, pgs 121-143, 2010](#).

The project evaluator and program director presented the program on numerous occasions, most recently at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals annual meeting (St. Louis, Missouri, May 2008) and the Third National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery (Tampa, Florida, September 2008).

## ***Prevention Programs***

### ***Project ASSIST (Assisting, Serving, Supporting in Stressful Times)***

Fall River, Massachusetts is one of three communities that was awarded a four year Community Resilience and Recovery Initiative (CRRI) grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). [Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. \(SSTAR\)](#) used this funding to implement Project ASSIST, which provided the community up to \$1.4 million per year (through 2015) to help improve access to behavioral health services.

### ***BOLD (Building Our Lives Drug-free) Coalition***

NPIC/QAS was the evaluator for the [BOLD \(Building Our Lives Drug-free\) Coalition](#) serving the Fall River, Massachusetts area. BOLD is a substance abuse prevention coalition comprised of community volunteers, agency representatives, educators, city government, school representatives and youth. These groups and individuals are working together to reduce youth substance abuse and create a healthy community for the youth of Greater Fall River. BOLD is funded in part by the (federal) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

### ***Bristol Community College CORE Strategies for Substance Abuse Treatment***

NPIC/QAS served as the evaluator of Campus Out-Reach and Enhancement (CORE) Strategies for Substance Abuse Treatment, a collaborative effort of [Bristol Community College \(BCC\)](#) and [Stanley Street Treatment and Resources \(SSTAR\)](#). CORE assisted students in addressing substance use issues, as well as providing education to students and faculty. CORE's mission was to help BCC students meet their educational and life goals by decreasing the harmful use of alcohol, illicit drugs and other substances.

Grant funding for the CORE project ended in December, 2008. Funds were used to expand health services at the Fall River campus of BCC; screening and brief intervention services have been embedded in this site, as well as screening and brief intervention services. An article describing the project was submitted for publication in December, 2008.

Forty-nine percent (3.8 million) of full time college students binge drink and/or abuse prescription and illegal drugs, according to *"Wasting the Best and the Brightest: Substance Abuse at America's Colleges and Universities"*, a report by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

### ***Epidemiology of Maternal Substance Abuse in Pregnancy and its Relation to Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity***

NPIC/QAS and the National Association for Perinatal Addiction Research and Education (NAPARE) collaborated on this four year, million dollar project.

As the extent of substance abuse of the traditional "hard" as well as "recreational" drugs has increased to unparalleled levels, no socioeconomic, racial, or ethnic group was spared. The quality of life and cost complications for drug-affected neonates was of special concern of National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), as reflected in the size and scope of this research effort.

The objectives of the research can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Develop, implement, and evaluate an educational program for physicians that will enhance their ability to recognize substance abuse and will allow appropriate treatment and more accurate monitoring of substance abuse in pregnant women and exposure in neonates.
- 2) Analyze the morbidity and mortality associated with substance abuse in mothers and exposure in neonates, and assess particular subgroups of women (by age and race).
- 3) Assess the cost of care for substance-affected mothers and neonates compared to an age and race-adjusted comparison group.

A primary motivation for NIDA's interest in this study is that early intervention with appropriate rehabilitation therapy can reduce infant morbidity and mortality caused by drug abuse during the perinatal period.

### ***Family Strengthening***

NPIC/QAS conducted the evaluation of three separate programs which received federal funds from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) to review model parenting programs and provide parenting program services to families with substance abuse and/or other issues which place them at risk for poor parenting.

One of these sites, *Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR)*, was granted a new award to expand services from the social service site to the local middle schools and family court. NPIC/QAS conducted the evaluation of this substance abuse prevention service that provided the evidence-based "Parenting Wisely" parenting program to families in Fall River, MA.

### ***National Perinatal Addiction Prevention Resource Center***

NPIC/QAS collaborated in the establishment and operation of a National Perinatal Addiction Prevention Resource Center that was funded through Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). The primary goal of the Resource Center was to promote the development of knowledge through information sharing in the interests of improving outcomes for substance abusing pregnant and post-partum women and their children. NPIC/QAS played an active role in many aspects of the Center. It reviewed and assessed all existing federal health data collection efforts to determine if there was a need for a substance abuse monitoring system.

The Resource Center was intended to serve as a national resource that would stimulate policy; disseminate new research information; provide information referral, technical training, service design and technical assistance; and, evaluate findings of programs relating to the target population of women and infants. The Center was utilized by the CSAP grantees under the Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Infants Program (PPWI), as well as other organizations, health professionals, physicians, service providers, and community groups concerned with maternal substance abuse.

The major components of the Resource Center included:

- *On and off-site training and technical assistance, including a Residential Training Program*
- *The development of resource packages for service providers*
- *Topic-specific workshops*
- *National Conferences*
- *A management information system database and electronic mail system called PREMIS providing comprehensive, in-depth information on issues and problems related to maternal substance abuse, as well as a directory of experts and programs*
- *An annual report on the field and quarterly national newsletters*

### **State of RI Substance Abuse Prevention Projects**

Project sites included RI Substance Abuse Prevention Projects (RIEAP) Student Assistance Services Strengthening Families Program (based in Providence middle schools) and a residential student assistance program; Stopover Services (SOS) Brief Strategic Family Therapy (in Newport, RI); and Child and Family Services “Project Success” in Newport schools.

### **The Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Association "Communities United for Prevention"**

NPIC/QAS was the program evaluation subcontractor to the Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Association (RISAPTFA) for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Community Partnership Coalition Development Grant. The goals of this project included mobilizing, training and supporting community based task force associations; these community coalitions have the responsibility for assessing the needs of their community concerning substance abuse prevention and subsequently developing and implementing intervention activities.

## **Treatment Programs**

### **SSTAR (Fall River, MA)**

Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. (SSTAR) was awarded a three year grant through 2014. The grant was issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to help provide substance abuse services to adolescents and their families and primary caregivers.

***SSTAR Adolescent Community Treatment (ACT)***

Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. (SSTAR) implemented an evidence-based protocol for working with adolescents who reside in the Greater Fall River, MA area utilizing a community reinforcement approach (A-CRA) coupled with assertive continuing care (ACC). The long-term goals of this project were: to reduce the number of adolescents in the community who are actively engaging in alcohol and drug use; to increase social stability in terms of housing, school, work and stable mental health; and to decrease criminal activity.

NPIC/QAS provided evaluation services determining the impact of treatment through follow-up post-discharge, contributing to a national understanding of how best to meet the needs of adolescents with substance use issues and their family members. This funding for outpatient services for adolescents and their families ended December 2013, but treatment services will continue at SSTAR.

***Caritas/Corkery Residential Treatment for Adolescents***

Caritas, Inc. provides continuing care services to adolescents who have completed residential treatment in their facility for males (Corkery House) or females (Caritas House). NPIC/QAS provided evaluation services, determining the impact of treatment through three months post-discharge.

Evaluation efforts demonstrated that significant improvements resulted from educational programming - youth perceive a greater risk associated with use of alcohol and drugs after three months of inpatient treatment. Gains were sustained post-treatment, with most youth maintaining abstinence, achieving stability in their family's home, and attending school and/or working.

***Project Link (State of Rhode Island)***

Project Link is an outpatient program for women and children that provides integrated substance abuse treatment and behavioral health services (primarily provided through Women and Infants Hospital). NPIC/QAS provided data entry, database development and other consultation to support this program.

***MAP Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitative Services***

NPIC/QAS worked with MAP as the evaluator for a CSAT Treatment Capacity Expansion Grant. This grant (10/99-9/02) expanded treatment capacity at: the residential program for men; the outpatient program; and at a collaborating methadone maintenance program. The ten additional "beds" for residential treatment were sustained through funding by the state of RI at the end of federal funding.

***SStarbirth (State of Rhode Island)***

SStarbirth is a residential program for women with addiction issues and their children. State funds for evaluation were used to assess participant's progress in welfare to work activities. The site was also awarded a federal (CSAT) grant for which NPIC/QAS served as the evaluator; one of eight sites nationally that were involved in designing protocols for residential substance abuse treatment of women with their children.

***SSTAR Short Term Adolescent Treatment***

CSAT awarded Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. (SSTAR) in Fall River, MA a three-year Effective Adolescent Treatment (EAT) grant to implement the Short Term Adolescent Treatment (STAT) Project utilizing the five session Motivational Enhancement / Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (MET/CBT-5).

In addition to the evidence-based manual guided treatment of MET/CBT-5, STAT included a case management component that offered families assistance in accessing additional services. The National

Perinatal Information Center/Quality Analytic Services (NPIC/QAS) was responsible for the evaluation of this program.

### ***Other Short-Term Projects***

#### ***The Providence Plan***

##### ***New Roots Learning Collaborative***

NPIC/QAS provided evaluation services to New Roots Providence's Performance Management Learning Collaborative funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service through their nonprofit capacity building program.

Their project had two main objectives. The first was to improve the organizational capacity of 24 small or mid-sized nonprofits by providing them with the TA needed to design and implement a performance management system. The second objective was to provide a capacity building training curriculum to 100 nonprofits in core sustainability areas such as financial management, resource development, logic model design, collaboration, IRS 990 compliance, and other related topics. A third, smaller objective was to improve the organizational capacity of up to 20 smaller, emergent Grassroots Organizations with a shortened Performance Management Learning Collaborative.

#### ***Greater Fall River Small Worksite Wellness Project***

NPIC/QAS served as an evaluation consultant to the Greater Fall River Small Worksite Wellness Project, funded through the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace. Up to twenty small business employers were enrolled in this pilot project designed to engage their employees in health promotional behavior over a six month period.

The project measured and evaluated ten Program Elements, including employer response to the invitation and reasons for and against participation, employee engagement and participation, and the helpfulness and effectiveness of using community-based resources to engage employees in smaller worksites in worksite health promotion.